

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed November 22, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case in light of the following remarks.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 13-14 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 5,629,981 to Nerlikar ("*Nerlikar*") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0140374 issued to Light et al., ("*Light*"). In addition, Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nerlikar* in view of *Light* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,028,626 to Aviv ("*Aviv*").

Applicants respectfully contend that each of these rejections is improper since *Light* is not prior art to the present application. The present application was filed on December 22, 1999. *Light* is a publication of a patent application that was filed on February 1, 2006. However, *Light* does claim priority to two applications that were filed before the present application (thus potentially qualifying it as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)). These applications issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,175,616 and 6,483,900. However, neither of these two patents include any of the disclosure that the Examiner is relying upon in the above rejections.

Therefore, much of the disclosure of *Light*, including the portions relied upon by the Examiner, is not prior art to the present application. Therefore, regardless of whether such disclosure teaches particular limitations of the claims (which Applicants do not address as a moot point), this disclosure can not be used to reject the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the prior applications (now patents) to which *Light* claims priority and that were filed before the present application do not disclose the limitations of the rejected claims. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-5, 8-11, 13-14 and 21-23.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 15-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Light*. As noted above, *Light* is not prior art to the present application. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 15-24.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 6-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, since Claims 6 and 7 depend from Claim 1 (which Applicants believe to be in condition for allowance as noted above), Applicants have not amended these claims.

CONCLUSION

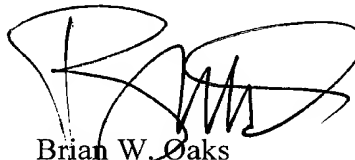
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the present application is not allowed and/or if one or more of the rejections is maintained, Applicant hereby requests a telephone conference with the Examiner and further request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to schedule the telephone conference.

Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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